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CONGRESSMAN PENCE, U.S. HUD SECRETARY MARTINEZ AND MUNCIE MAYOR CANAN PART

Washington, Mar 31, 2003 - WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Congressman Mike Pence joined U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Mel Martinez and Muncie Mayor Dan Canan for a groundbreaking ceremony to mark the beginning of the revitalization of the Munsyana Homes public housing development.

“This is an enormous accomplishment for Muncie, Mayor Canan and every city official who has worked so tirelessly to make the vision of downtown revitalization a reality,” said Pence. Pence announced in early March that the Muncie Housing Authority will receive a \$12.3 million housing grant from HUD with the goal of revitalizing the Munsyana Homes public housing development.

During his three years in Congress, Pence has worked with HUD, Muncie Mayor Dan Canan and city leaders to make the housing grant a top priority.

Pence also praised the White House and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the decision. “I commend the Bush Administration and Secretary Mel Martinez for embracing our shared vision for a new downtown for ‘Middletown’ in the 21st Century,” Pence said.

“Revitalizing distressed communities continues to be a priority for this administration,” said Martinez. “Muncie is one of the 28 cities that has received funding this year to revitalize neighborhoods and improve lives.”

The grant will enable the Housing Authority to revitalize the Munsyana Homes public housing development. Two hundred and seventy-nine units will be demolished and replaced with 62 units of public housing, 138 affordable rental units and 44 homeownership units.

Pence said the grant will benefit approximately 171 families currently residing at Munsyana. The new site plan will incorporate traditional architectural and landscape features with the surrounding residential neighborhoods, including single-family homes, duplexes and quads.

Pence also noted the development will provide programs to foster self-sufficiency among residents with a range of incomes, including computer training and job readiness programs.

Financing for the projects includes low income housing tax credits, funds from the city and state

and loans from private lending institutions.

As a part of the award, HUD will pay relocation costs for residents displaced by the revitalization effort. Relocated residents who meet program requirements will be given the opportunity to move back to the newly constructed units at the site. Alternatively, if residents choose not to return to public housing, they will be given vouchers to subsidize their rents in privately owned apartments.

Muncie was selected from a pool of 58 applications HUD received for 2002 funding. Cities were competitively selected with an emphasis on the effectiveness and project readiness of their public housing revitalization plans. HUD policy provides local housing authorities the flexibility to develop revitalization plans that meet their own special needs.

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